II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying foreground segments of a JPEG image, comprising:

selecting a block in the JPEG image;

extracting a set of DCT coefficients from the block, wherein the set comprises ~~the~~ a first N AC components of the block;

computing a sum of the set of DCT coefficients; ~~and~~

analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment; and

outputting an identified foreground segment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the JPEG image comprises a compressed image of a bank check.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein N is 16.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the step of comparing the sum to a threshold value.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of computing a sum for each block in the JPEG image.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the step of comparing the sum to a second sum computed for a neighboring block.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment includes the further step of identifying the block as part of a foreground segment if the value of the sum is substantially larger than the value of the second sum.

8. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for identifying foreground segments in a compressed electronic image, the program product comprising:

means for extracting a set of frequency coefficients from each block of the compressed electronic image, wherein each set comprises ~~the~~ a first N frequency coefficients of the block;

means for computing a sum of the extracted frequency coefficients for each block; ~~and~~

means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment; and

means for indicating that the block is part of a foreground segment.

9. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein N is 16.

10. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the set of frequency coefficients comprises JPEG DCT components.

11. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment compares the sum to a second sum computed for a neighboring block.

12. (Original) The program product of claim 8, wherein the means for analyzing the sum to determine if the block is part of a foreground segment compares the sum to a threshold value.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying foreground segments of a JPEG image, comprising:

a system for extracting a set of DCT coefficients from each block of the JPEG image; ~~and~~

a system for computing a sum of the extracted DCT coefficients for each block; and

a system for analyzing the ~~sums~~ sum computed for each block to determine which blocks in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each set comprises ~~the~~ a first N AC components of the block.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein N is 16.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the system for analyzing the ~~sums~~ sum computed for each block to determine which blocks in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment compares a first sum for a first block to a second sum for a neighboring block.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the system for analyzing identifies the first block as part of a foreground segment if the first sum is substantially greater than the second sum.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the system for analyzing the ~~sums~~ sum computed for each block to determine which blocks in the JPEG image are part of a foreground segment compares each sum to a threshold value.